

Workshop Meeting

Meeting Date: 02/15/2011

Length (in minutes): 45 Minutes

Agenda Title: Presentation on Main Street Parking Options for the Main Street/Green Street Retrofit Project

Prepared For: Kim McMillan

Item Type:

Meeting Type: Council Workshop Mtg.

Excerpt from 2-15-11 Main Street Parking Options Agenda Item Summary

Information

ISSUE

The Council is asked to listen to a presentation and provide input on parking options for the Main Street/Green Street Retrofit project. Staff is seeking Council direction to proceed with a parking layout and to develop a parking management strategy.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUEST

Staff recommends the Councilors participate in the presentation and direct staff to proceed with the preferred parking layout and to develop a parking management strategy.

KEY FACTS AND INFORMATION SUMMARY

- The Main Street/Green Street Retrofit project, funded by a combination of a Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program grant and City resources, will rebuild Main Street to incorporate "green street" elements, like stormwater planters, LED street lights, and additional pedestrian amenities.
- Two of the City's consultants, Rick Williams and Gary Alfson, will attend the presentation. Mr. Williams, of Rick Williams Consulting, specializes in parking management and operations. Mr. Alfson is with Harper Houf Peterson Righellis Inc. (HHPR), the firm that's been hired to design and construct the project.
- Parking was identified early on as a major design issue because it will impact all other design elements.
- Parking is critical to the vitality of every business along Main Street and is a major concern to business owners. Public Works and Community Development staff members met with a group of downtown business owners over the last several months to better understand parking issues from their perspective. Staff presented two parking alternatives to the business owners:

1. All parallel parking

This option offers fewer parking spaces, with 12-foot sidewalks.

2. **Preferred Option** - Angled and parallel parking

This option is similar to the existing layout and offers more parking spaces, with 8-foot sidewalks in most areas. There are, however, some areas that are currently wider than 8 feet, namely in front of some of the restaurants.

HHPR was able to design green street planters for either alternative. There won't be a reduction in existing sidewalk widths under either option.

- The business owners support option 2. They have clearly said that their customers find angled parking easier to use.
- Our consultant's experience has shown that angled parking is desirable on downtown main streets.
- The City Center Advisory Commission is also considering this issue and will be finalizing their recommendation on February 9. The Commissioners will present their recommendation at this workshop.
- As a next step, a parking management strategy will need to be developed. This strategy will establish policies that result in the most efficient use of parking resources. In short, a parking management strategy will determine the "who, what, when, where and how" of downtown parking, with the ultimate goal being that sufficient parking is available for customers and employees. This strategy will be developed as the design is finalized and will be implemented in phases.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

The Council could conclude that the proposed parking layouts are not in the community's best interest and could direct staff to continue to develop other parking options.